

THE 1ST COMIC BOOK



*THIS
HELPS ME TO
UNDERSTAND*



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR
*HELPING PEOPLE WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME AND THEIR
LOVED ONES COMMUNICATE*
BY ALIS ROWE

The Girl with the Curly Hair presents The 1st Comic Book
978-0-9562693-1-7

Also by Alis Rowe

One Lonely Mind
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The Girl with the Curly Hair - Asperger's and Me
978-0-9562693-2-4

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978-0-9562693-3-1

eBooks:

9 Reasons Why You Should Consider Getting A Diagnosis Of Asperger's Syndrome
9 Discussions About School For Aspie Children And Their Parents
9 Ways In Which You Can Help Your Aspie Child Go Back To School

Websites:

www.alisrowe.co.uk
www.thegirlwiththecurlyhair.co.uk
www.womensweightlifting.co.uk

Social Media:

www.facebook.com/thegirlwiththecurlyhair
www.twitter.com/curlyhairedalis
www.twitter.com/alisthelioness



30124 03084412 2

*THE GIRL WITH THE
CURLY HAIR*

PRESENTS

*THE 1ST COMIC
BOOK*

ALIS ROWE

Lonely Mind Books
London

FALKIRK COMMUNITY
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**For people with Asperger's Syndrome and their
Neurotypical families and friends**

and

my Facebook friends





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hello

These comic strips are all very real. They are things that happen to me on a daily basis. I created this book because I wanted others to see into the world of Asperger's Syndrome, including the what, why and how I experience life. Having read this book, my neurotypical mother made the following remark:

"I don't know how you get through every day!"

which really made me think. She hit the nail on the head, so to speak. What might be small challenges for neurotypicals, are very big challenges for people like me. This book recreates everyday situations in a colourful, thought-provoking and sometimes funny way - I wanted it to be an engaging read for everyone.

I hope this book helps both the NT and the AS understand a bit better how one another's mind works.

Some of the comic strips contain more subtleties than you might initially see. For example, notice how the neurotypical refers to time in a simple way, e.g. 6 o' clock or 6pm. In contrast, The Girl with the Curly Hair refers to time as accurately as possible, including minutes, e.g. 6.00pm. It is my intention to show how exact life is for people with Asperger's Syndrome, which is why we often come across as being a bit rigid or inflexible.

I hope you enjoy this book.

Alis aka The Girl with the Curly Hair

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The single bed

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

*AND HER NEUROTYPICAL PARTNER ARE LYING
IN BED, ABOUT TO FALL ASLEEP.*

A SINGLE BED WOULD BE EASIER FOR HER.



*I
LOVE SLEEPING NEXT
TO YOU. IT GIVES ME THE MOST
AMAZING FEELING IN THE
WORLD.*

*I'LL
NEVER
GET TO SLEEP. ALL
THESE SENSATIONS ARE
KEEPING ME AWAKE. HE'S
MAKING THE BED TOO HOT.
I CAN HEAR AND FEEL HIM
BREATHING.*



Why marry?

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

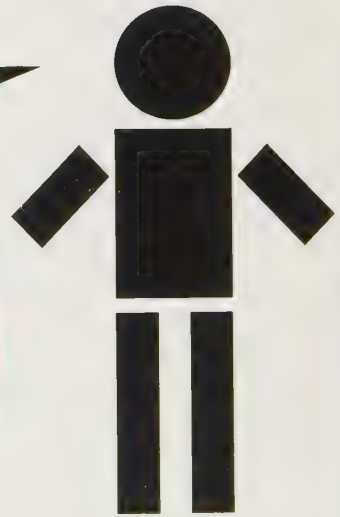
AND HER NEUROTYPICAL PARTNER ARE MEETING WITH THE PRIEST. THE PRIEST ASKS, "SO TELL ME WHY YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED."

HER LOVE FOR HIM IS PRACTICAL.



I'LL ONLY HAVE
TO PAY HALF OF THE
BILLS AND HE'LL ALWAYS BE
AROUND TO HELP WITH MY
WEIGHTLIFTING.

I JUST REALLY LOVE HER
AND WANT TO BE WITH
HER FOREVER. SHE IS MY
WORLD!



Extra fillings

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

AND HER NEUROTYPICAL PARTNER HAVE BOUGHT

SANDWICHES FROM THE SANDWICH BAR.

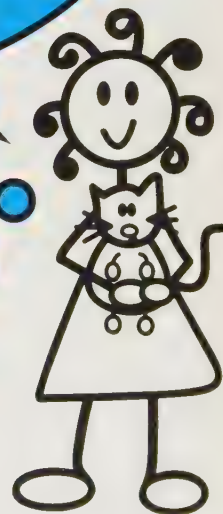
THEY'VE ADDED EXTRAS SHE HAD NOT ASKED FOR.



MM,
THIS IS
GOOD! THEY'VE EVEN
ADDED SOME LETTUCE,
TOMATOES AND
MAYO.

BUT WE DIDN'T
ASK FOR LETTUCE,
TOMATOES OR MAYO.
I NEED TO SEND MINE
BACK.

WHY
DO THESE
PLACES NEVER GIVE
ME WHAT I ASK FOR? I
ASKED FOR A CHICKEN AND
SWEETCORN SANDWICH.



Tea teasing

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



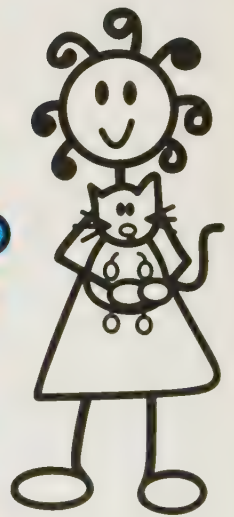
THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR
AND HER NEUROTYPICAL FRIEND ARE
HANGING OUT IN TOWN.
SHE IS VERY EASILY HURT.

HEY,
LET'S GO AND GET
COFFEE AT 2PM.

WHY IS HE
SAYING "COFFEE"
AGAIN? HE KNOWS I HATE
COFFEE.

I KNOW
SHE DOESN'T LIKE
COFFEE, BUT SHE CAN
HAVE TEA!

I'M
SO UPSET.
IT JUST FEELS LIKE HE
DOESN'T EVEN KNOW
ME.



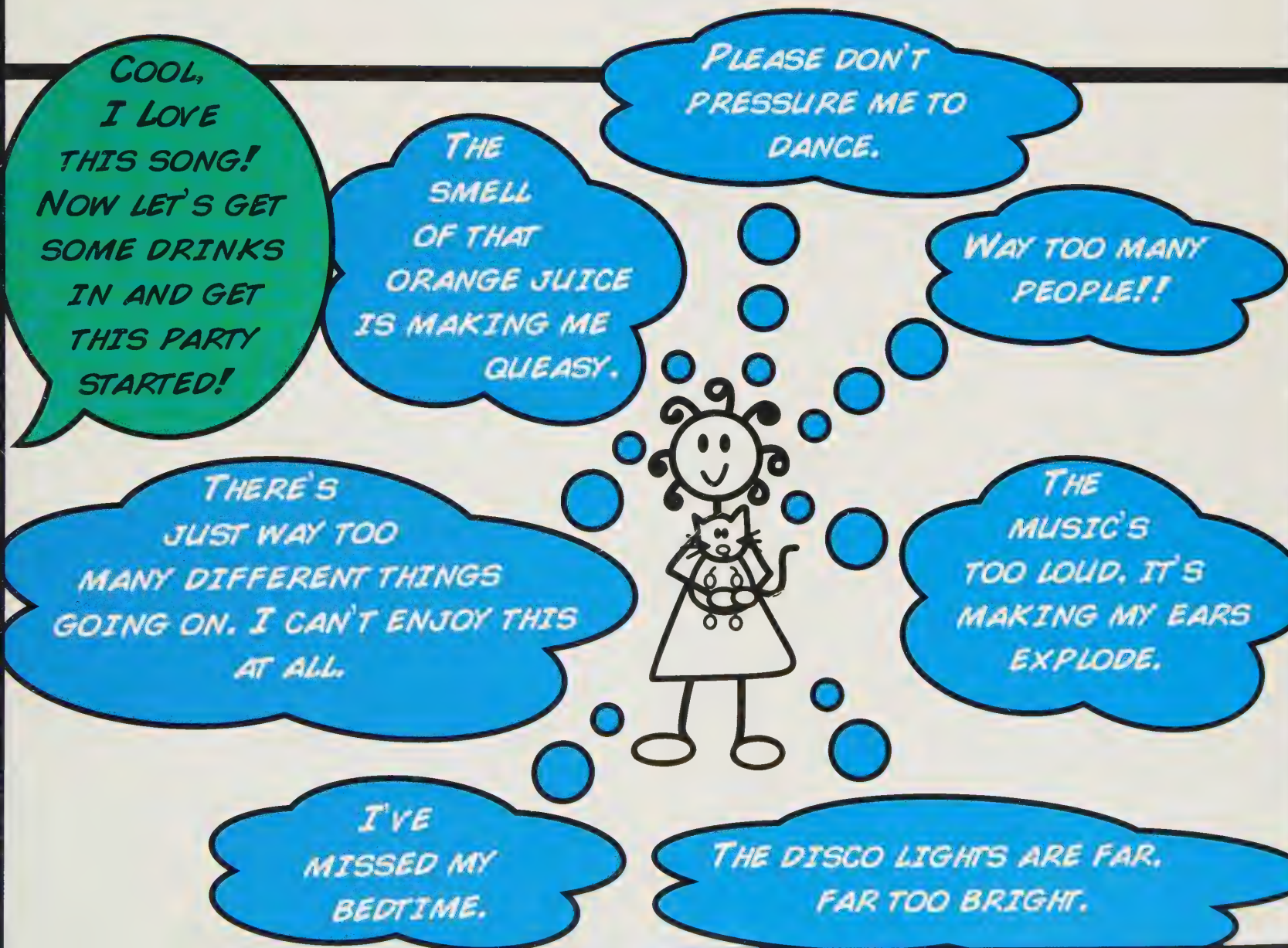
The night club

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

IS AT A PARTY WITH HER NEUROTYPICAL FRIENDS.
FUN? NO, IT'S OVERWHELMING.



Class is cancelled

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

ARRIVES AT COLLEGE, ONLY TO FIND OUT HER CLASS
HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

THE NEUROTYPICAL STUDENTS ARE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED. SHE IS NOT.

WHAT
A RELIEF.
I FORGOT MY
HOMEWORK
ANYWAY!

YAY,
CLASS IS
CANCELLED!
LET'S GO HANG
OUT AT THE
PARK!

NOW I'VE
GOT A 3 HOUR FREE
PERIOD... I'M SO FRUSTRATED.
I COULD'VE JUST COME INTO
COLLEGE 2 HOURS LATER. NOW
I'M STUCK HERE.

WHAT AM
I SUPPOSED TO
DO NOW? REALLY DON'T WANT TO
BE AROUND MY CLASSMATES. WILL
HAVE TO GO TO THE LIBRARY.

I WAS
REALLY LOOKING
FORWARD TO FINDING OUT HOW I
DID IN LAST WEEK'S TEST. I'M SO
DISAPPOINTED.

WHY DIDN'T
THEY LET US KNOW IN
ADVANCE? I COULD'VE STAYED
AT HOME.

BUT
I'VE
BROUGHT MY
HOMEWORK IN.
I SPENT ALL
WEEKEND DOING
IT.



Cuddling the cat

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

IS STROKING *HER CAT* AFTER A STRESSFUL DAY.
ANIMALS ARE EASIER TO RELATE TO THAN PEOPLE.

HER
FUR'S
SO SOFT. IT'S
LOVELY.

I SO LOVE
YOU! YOU'RE MY
ANGEL.

SHE'S
GOT A LITTLE
KNOT HERE. I'LL GET
THE BRUSH.

PURR...

SHE'S GOT
THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL
BLUE EYES.

SHE ASKS FOR
NOTHING BUT SOME
LOVE. SHE'S HAPPY TO JUST
'BE.'

SHE'S PURRING.
THAT MEANS SHE'S
HAPPY.

I'M A BIT ITCHY. I THINK
IT'S TIME TO DE-FLEA
TOMORROW.



The office lunch

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

IS AT WORK. AT 12PM, THE BOSS ANNOUNCES THE WHOLE TEAM IS GOING OUT FOR LUNCH.

WHAT OTHERS AGREE TO AT A DROP OF A HAT, IS STRESSFUL FOR HER.

BUT I'VE
ALREADY
GOT MY CHICKEN AND
SWEETCORN SANDWICH
THAT I BROUGHT FROM
HOME.

I
CAN'T
FACE ANY EXTRA
SOCIALISING. JUST BEING IN
THE OFFICE IS TOO MUCH
FOR ME.

I
ALREADY
KNOW I WON'T
WANT ANYTHING IN
THE RESTAURANT.

BUT I LIKE TO EAT AT
1.00PM. I'M NOT HUNGRY
UNTIL 1.00PM.

I DO
NOT LIKE HAVING
TO EXPLAIN ALL THE TIME, WHY I ONLY
DRINK WATER.

I REALLY NEED TO
FINISH THIS WORK.

DOES
THIS MEAN
I HAVE TO STAY LATER
TO MAKE UP FOR THE
TIME? MY EVENING
WILL BE RUINED.

IF I HAVE
TO STAY LATER
AT WORK TONIGHT, DINNER
WILL BE TOO LATE. I'LL MISS
MY FAVOURITE TV SHOW.
EVERYTHING IS RUINED!




Butterflies and weightlifting

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

AND HER MUM ARE TALKING IN THE GARDEN.
SHE ONLY WANTS TO TALK ABOUT WEIGHTLIFTING.




HOW WAS
YOUR WEIGHTLIFTING TODAY?

FANTASTIC!
I GOT RECORDS FOR SQUATS AND...

...OH!
LOOK AT THAT BEAUTIFUL
BLUE BUTTERFLY!

BUT
MUM! I DIDN'T
FINISH TELLING YOU ABOUT
WEIGHTLIFTING!

BUT
WE'VE BOTH SEEN
BUTTERFLIES BEFORE. WHAT'S SO SPECIAL
ABOUT THIS ONE?



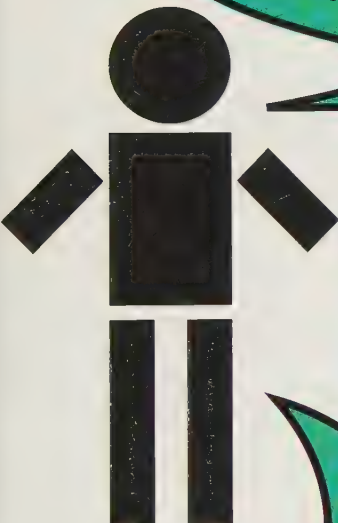
The baby in the cafe

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

AND HER DAD ARE IN THE CAFE. A BABY CRIES.
THEIR REACTIONS ARE VERY DIFFERENT.



THE
POOR MOTHER. SHE MUST BE REALLY
WORRIED, WONDERING WHAT'S WRONG WITH
HER BABY.

THE
POOR MOTHER?
POOR ME! SHE NEEDS TO TAKE
THE BABY OUTSIDE UNTIL IT STOPS
CRYING. IT'S DISTURBING
PEOPLE.

IT'S
A PUBLIC
PLACE! SHE'S
PERFECTLY ALLOWED
TO HAVE HER BABY
IN HERE.

ARGH!
I CAN'T HEAR A
THING. THE NOISE IS
JUST UNBEARABLE.
MAKE IT STOP.



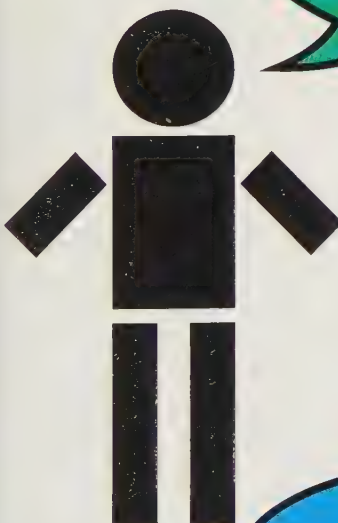
Clothes shopping

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

IS DOING HER ANNUAL CLOTHES SHOPPING.
COMFORT TAKES PRECEDENCE
OVER STYLE.



WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
TRY THAT ON?

OH NO,
SHE'S TALKING
TO ME. I'M OK ON MY
OWN. I KNOW WHAT I'M
DOING. I DO THIS EVERY
YEAR.

NO
THANK YOU. I KNOW IT
WILL FIT.

I JUST NEED
TO FIND THE
RIGHT FEELING FABRIC. DON'T
REALLY CARE HOW IT LOOKS.
MUST GET OUT OF HERE. VERY
TIRED.




Going to the park

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR
AND HER DAD ARE GOING TO THE PARK.
HE KNOWS HE MUST TELL HER ALL THE DETAILS.



WE'LL
LEAVE HERE AT
3PM.

COOL
DAD, THIS
SOUNDS FUN.

WE'LL
WALK DOWN PARK
ROAD TO GET TO THE PARK.

AT
3.30, WE'LL FEED
THE DUCKS ON DUCK
BRIDGE.

WE'LL
LEAVE THE
PARK AT 5.30PM, SO
THAT WE CAN BE HOME
AT 6PM IN TIME FOR
DINNER.

I
FEEL SAFE
KNOWING I WILL
BE HOME AT MY USUAL
DINNER TIME.




The heatwave

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



*THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR
AND HER NEUROTYPICAL PARTNER ARE GOING
TO BED IN A HEATWAVE.
THE FAN IS ON ALL NIGHT.*



*I
HATE THIS HOT
WEATHER, I CAN'T SLEEP!
AND THAT FAN ISN'T DOING
ANYTHING AT ALL.*



*I'M
SLEEPING
SO, SO WELL. THE
NOISE OF THE FAN IS SO
SOOTHING. I'M GOING
TO USE IT ALL YEAR
ROUND!*



Flushed

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR
OPENS THE DOOR TO FIND HER NEUROTYPICAL
PARTNER OUTSIDE.
COMMON PHRASES ARE CONFUSING.



YOU
LOOK
VERY FLUSHED!
HAVE YOU BEEN
WEIGHTLIFTING?

YES,
I HAVE BEEN DOING
WEIGHTLIFTING.



FLUSHED?
WHAT DOES
HE MEAN? WHAT
HAS WEIGHTLIFTING
GOT TO DO WITH
TOILETS?

Being close

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR
AND HER NEUROTYPICAL PARTNER ARE HAVING
SOME INTIMACY TIME.
THEY BOTH LOVE THEIR TIME TOGETHER.



Back from holiday

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

AND HER NEUROTYPICAL SISTER ARRIVE HOME FROM FRANCE. DAD ASKS HOW IT WENT.

THEY ENJOYED DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE HOLIDAY.



GREAT!
I GOT THESE
AMAZING NEW SHOES AND
A PRETTY DRESS!

AWFUL.
THE HOTEL
DID NOT HAVE THE
SAME VEGETABLES
AS I EAT AT HOME.

THE
LOCAL SUPERMARKET
HAD THE BEST VEGETABLES EVER! I
BROUGHT BACK A WHOLE SUITCASE OF
TINS!

CAN'T
WAIT TO
CATCH UP WITH
EVERYBODY
TONIGHT!

NOW
I NEED TO
CHECK THE INTERNET
SO I CAN IMPORT THE
VEGETABLES TO HAVE
EVERY DAY!



Specifically tea


SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

AND HER NEUROTYPICAL FRIEND ARE HANGING OUT
IN TOWN.

SHE TAKES HIS REQUESTS LITERALLY.



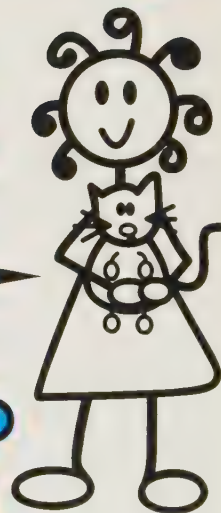
WANNA
GO FOR A
COFFEE?

I
DON'T LIKE
COFFEE. I WISH HE'D
ASKED ME TO GO FOR A
CUP OF TEA INSTEAD.

NO
THANKS.

PERHAPS
SHE THINKS I
LITERALLY MEAN "COFFEE?"

OH
OK, SURE. I
WOULD LOVE A CUP OF
TEA.



WELL
YOU COULD
HAVE SOMETHING ELSE.
TEA, HOT CHOCOLATE,
COLA....?

WHY
DOESN'T HE JUST
SAY WHAT HE MEANS THE FIRST
TIME?

Good morning

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

AND HER NEUROTYPICAL COLLEAGUE ARRIVE AT WORK.
SOCIAL NICETIES ARE CONFUSING. SHE SAYS WHAT SHE'S
SUPPOSED TO.



HIYA,
HOW ARE YOU?

FEELING
HORRID TODAY.
VERY SAD.

HELLO.
I'M FINE
THANKS, YOU?

HMM,
SHE LOOKS
A BIT UPSET. HOPE
SHE'S ALRIGHT.



I'M
NOT SURE WHY
WE HAVE TO SAY WE'RE FINE,
EVEN WHEN WE'RE NOT.

Ponytail

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

IS WAITING FOR HER MUM WHO HAS JUST
FINISHED AT THE GYM.

APPEARANCES CAN BE CONFUSING.



HI
SWEETIE, THE GYM
WAS TOUGH TODAY!

YOU
LOOK DIFFERENT. YOUR
HAIR'S UP IN A PONYTAIL.

I FEEL
DISTRESSED.
SHE DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE MUM
ANYMORE.



The haircut

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

IS HAVING HER HAIR CUT ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

SOCIAL CHAT MAKES HER PUT ON HER MASK.

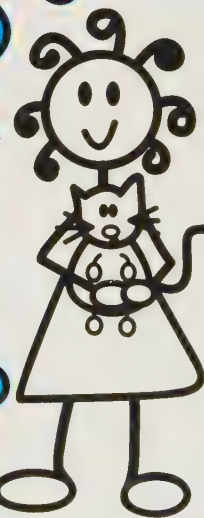


WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
TONIGHT, BABE?

I'M
DOING THE
SAME THINGS THAT I
DO EVERY NIGHT...

READING
A BOOK.

BUT SHE'S
SO YOUNG! WHY
ISN'T SHE GOING OUT
CLUBBING?



...READING
MY BOOK, EATING 3
SCRAMBLED EGGS ON 4 TOASTS, ENJOYING MY LAVA
LAMPS, AND STIMMING.

Buying ice cream

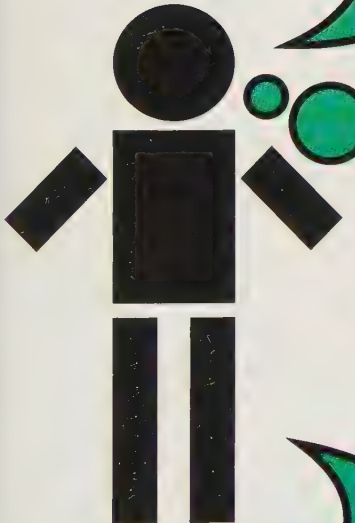
SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

ASKS HER DAD TO BUY A LARGE TUB OF HER FAVOURITE ICE CREAM FROM THE SHOP.

HE THINKS HE'S DONE REALLY WELL, BUT SHE IS VERY SPECIFIC IN HER NEEDS.



THEY
DIDN'T HAVE THE
LARGE SIZE SHE USUALLY
HAS, SO I GOT YOU A COUPLE
OF SMALL TUBS INSTEAD.

I'M
LEARNING! IN
THE PAST I WOULD'VE GOT
HER A DIFFERENT FLAVOUR IN
A LARGE TUB. SHE WOULD'VE
REJECTED THAT.

?? I FEEL
A BIT OFFENDED
NOW...

I
HOPE I
DIDN'T UPSET HIM. I
REALLY APPRECIATE THAT
HE WENT OUT FOR ME.

THANKS
FOR GOING OUT
DAD, BUT I CAN ONLY EAT
THE LARGE SIZE.



In the restaurant

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

AND HER NEUROTYPICAL PARTNER ARE HAVING A MEAL IN HER FAVOURITE RESTAURANT.

HE IS SENSITIVE TO HER NEEDS.



HONEY,
IS IT OK IF I ORDER AN
ORANGE JUICE?

PLEASE
DON'T. I WON'T
BE ABLE TO ENJOY MY MEAL
IF I CAN SEE AND SMELL THE
DRINK ON THE TABLE. ALSO, I'LL
BE ABLE TO SMELL IT ON YOUR
BREATH FOR A LONG TIME
AFTERWARDS.



The Uni party

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES...



THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR

IS INVITED TO THE END OF TERM UNI PARTY.
SHE WISHES THEY WOULD ONLY ASK HER ONCE.

EXAMS
ARE DONE, NO
EXCUSES!!

YOU'RE
COMING,
RIGHT?

WHAT'S
WRONG?
DON'T YOU LIKE
US?

PLEASE
COME, WE'D
LOVE YOU TO BE
THERE!

IT'S TIME
TO LET YOUR HAIR
DOWN!



I
APPRECIATE
THEM INVITING ME BUT I
FEEL PRESSURED. I WISH THEY'D
ACCEPT IT WHEN I SAY NO
THE FIRST TIME.

THANKS
FOR INVITING
ME BUT I'M BUSY
THAT EVENING.

BUT
YOU
NEVER COME
OUT WITH
US...

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The end

220XL2

EVERYDAY SCENARIOS FOR PEOPLE WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME AND THEIR NEUROTYPICAL LOVED ONES

There are lots of **Neurotypical** people in the world, and fewer people with **Asperger's Syndrome**. This means sometimes it can be very hard for them to understand one another.

This engaging picture book presents simple, insightful, communicative comic strips of everyday situations between the **AS** and the **NT** in their overlapping worlds.

The Girl with the Curly Hair writes for anyone who wants to understand a different mind.



AUTHOR ALIS ROWE IS A YOUNG WOMAN WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME. SHE WRITES FOR PEOPLE WITH AS AND THEIR NT FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HER AND THE GIRL WITH THE CURLY HAIR AT WWW.THEGIRLWITHTHECURLYHAIR.CO.UK

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